

Message Text

PAGE 01 HONG K 02987 271049 Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 OMB-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /103 W

----- 030079

R 270935 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6429

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY TOGO

UNCLAS HONG KONG 2987

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR GY TO CI

SUBJECT: PRC ENVOYS TO GUYANA, TOGO, CHILE

1. NCNA (MARCH 23) REPORTED THE DEPARTURE FROM PEKING THAT DAY OF THREE NEW PRC AMBASSADORS.

2. WANG CHAN- YUAN, WHO WILL BE PEKING' S FIRST AMBASSADOR TO GUYANA, PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS COUNSELLOR THE PRC EMBASSY IN ROMANIA BETWEEN NOVEMBER, 1969 AND AT LEAST FEBRUARY, 1972. OUR FILES CONTAIN NO OTHER DETAILS OF HIS CAREER.

3. WEI PAO- SHAM IS THE FIRST PRC AMBASSADOR TO TOGO. HE WAS CHARGE' D' AFFAIRES BOTH IN KENYA (SEPTEMBER, 1972) F AND IN ALGIERS (FROM AT LEAST JULY, 1970 TO SEPTEMBER, 1971). FROM JUNE, 1964 TO APRIL, 1966 HE WAS COUNSELLOR IN MONGLOIA AND BETWEEN DECEMBER, 1951 (RPT 51) AND APRIL, 1952 HE APPEARED AS VICE CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY' S PROTOCOL OFFICE. WE HAVE NO RECORD OF HIS ACTIVITIES BETWEEN 1952 AND 1964 OR BETWEEN 1966 AND 1970.

4. HSU CHUNG- FU IS THE NEW PRC AMBASSADOR TO CHILE. HSU BECAME PEKING' S FIRST CHARGE' TO CANADA IN JANUARY, 1971 AND UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 HONG K 02987 271049 Z

CONTINUED TO SERVE THERE, OFTEN WITH THAT TITLE, UNTIL OCTOBER, 1972. BEFORE THAT HSU HAD SERVED AS CULTURAL COUNSELLOR IN THE

PRC EMBASSIES IN EGYPT (MAY, 1964 TO AT LEAST JANUARY, 1969), SWEDEN (DECEMBER, 1957 TO MAY, 1961), AND PAKISTAN (OCTOBER OF CAMBODIA. (COMMENT: THE SPEECH DOES NOT REFER TO ANY SPECIFIC EVENTS WITHIN CAMBODIA AND WAS PROBABLY TAPED SOME TIME EARLIER.)

11. SIHANOUK, PENN NOUTH AND IENG SARY HAVE BEEN CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM THE PEKING FOUNDING CELEBRATIONS. AMEMBASSY PARIS REPORTS WIDESPREAD SEPCULATION IN PEKING ABOUT SIHANOUK' S WHEREABOUTS AND COMMENTS THAT THE FRENCH EXPECT A MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN CAMBODIA, POSSIBLY INVOLVING A VISIT TO DRV- OCCUPIED TERRITORY BY SIHANOUK.

12. IN A CAREFULLY VAGUE ANNIVERSARY ARTICLE PRAVDJAKX HANOI CORRESPONDENT CLAIMED SOVIET BACKING FOR UNSPECIFIED " PATRIOTIC FORCES / WHO/ COMBAT / THE UNNAMED/ AGGRESSOR AND WIN FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY". GKR TOP LEADERS, DESCRIBED AS REACTIONARY AND AMERICAN- BACKED, ARE SEEN AS FALLEN INTO CORRUPTION AND RIVALRY. FUNK IS GIVEN 80 PERCENT OF THE TERRITORY AND 5 MILLION PEOPLE (VS. GRUNK' S CLAIM OF 90 PERCENT AND 5.5 MILLION) CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PHNOM 02787 02 OF 02 271219 Z

AND THE U. S. IS CRITICIZED UNDER THE RUBRIC OF " PENTAGON ACTIVITIES".

ECONOMIC

13. RICE. ON MARCH 23, RICE STOCKS IN KOMPONG SOM AND PHNOM PENH TOTALLED 36,800 METRIC TONS OR AN ESTIMATED 82 DAYS' SUPPLY. DISTRIBUTION IN PHNOM PENH IS RUNNING AT RECORD LEVELS AND THE INDICATIONS ARE THAT RICE IS BEING HORADED IN EXPECTATION OF PRICE INCREASES AND FEAR OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL UNREST. THE EMBASSY PLANS TO IMPRESS UPON THE GKR THE NEED TO LIMIT RICE RELEASES TO THE MARKET. EMBASSY BANGKOK REPORTS THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO MAKE MORE RICE AVAILABLE TO THE GKR BUT THE THAIS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF FURHTER RICE EXPORTS ON THE DOMESTIC SCENE.

14. REFUGEES. STAFF MEMBERS FROM THE SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE ON REFUGEES VISITED PHNOM PENH ON MARCH 20, 21, AND 22. THE TEAM MET WITH MARSHAL LON NOL AND OTHER KHMER OFFICIALS, HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNDP, CRC, CARE, AND CRS, AND VISITED SEVERAL REFUGEE SITES. ALTHOUGH THE OUTCOME OF THE VISIT IS NOT CERTAIN AT THIS TIME, IT APPEARS AS THAT THE TEAM BELIEVES THAT OUR CURRENT APPROACH OF CHANNELLING ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES THROUGH THE UN AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IS CORRECT. AT THE SAME TIME, THE TEAM FELT THAT ASSISTANCE WAS SLOW IN MATERIALIZING.

15. FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET. THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE MARKET OPENED ON MARCH 22 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE MARCH 1.

MILITARY

16. ON MARCH 21 KHMER INSURGENT FORCES RESUMED ATTACKS ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER CORRIDOR AND SUBSEQUENTLY OCCUPIED A 15 KM STRETCH OF RT 1 BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND NEAK LUONG. A TWO BRIGADE FANK CLEARING OPERATION, SUPPORTED BY NAVAL GUNBOATS, TASKED TO REOPEN THE HIGHWAY HAS MADE NO PROGRESS IN RESECURING THE LOC. CASUALTIES ARE REPORTEDLY LOW ON BOTH SIDES. A RESURGENCE IN ENEMY INITIATIVES ALONG THE MEKONG CORRIDOR REFLECTS THE ENEMY'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN ATTEMPTING TO DISCOURAGE MERCHANT SHIPPING COMPANIES FROM RESUPPLYING PHNOM PENH THUS AGGRAVATING THE ALREADY TENSE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE CAPITAL.

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PAGE 04 PHNOM 02787 02 OF 02 271219 Z

17. IN MILITARY REGION 2, FANK'S SEVENTH DIVISION REGAINED CONTROL OF RTE 2 BETWEEN PHNOM PENH AND TAKEO CITY ON MARCH 23. TRAFFIC IS RESTRICTED DUE TO BATTLE DAMAGE AND ROAD CUTS. INSURGENT FORCES CONTINUE TO HARASS TAKEO, AND RT 25 WHICH CONNECTS ANG TASSOM TO THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL REMAINS CUT. A MAJOR ASSAULT AGAINST THE CITY IS NOT EXPECTED, HOWEVER. ENEMY FORCES DSO INCREASED PRESSURE AGAINST ISOLATED FANK POSITIONS ALONG RTE 16 NORTH OF THE COASTAL RESORT TOWN OF KEP.

18. FURTHER WEST, ENEMY ATTACKS AGAINST FANK POSITIONS ON RTE 4, SOME 50 KM NORTHEAST OF KOMPONG SOM, RESULTED IN THE MARCH 25 CLOSING OF PHNOM PENH'S VITAL OVERLAND LINK TO THE COAST. GOVERNMENT FORCES QUICKLY DEPLOYED TO THE AREA AND HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO CLEAR THE HIGHWAY.

19. IN THE NORTHWEST, RTE 5, CLOSED FOR A THREE- DAY PERIOD SOUTH OF KOMPONG CHHNANG WAS REOPENED ON MARCH 22 WITHOUT ENEMY OPPOSITION. KI FORCES SUSTAINED 20 SOLDIERS KILLED WHILE FANK'S LOSSES WERE 2 KILLED AND 35 WOUNDED. THE ENEMY HAS GIVEN NO INDICATION OF WITHDRAWING FROM THE AREA AND FURTHER TO DISRUPT CONVOY TRAFFIC CAN BE EXPECTED.

20. SPORADIC ATTACKS BY FIRE CONTINUED IN THE VICINITY OF KOMPONG THOM AS CAMBODIAN FORCES ATTEMPTED TO EXPAND THEIR DEFENSES AROUND THE TOWN AND AIRFIELD, WHICH REMAINS OPEN TO TRAFFIC. A TACTICAL AIRSTRIKE AGAINST AN ENEMY SUPPLY CONVOY SOME 26 KM SOUTH OF KOMPONG THOM ON MARCH 21 DESTROYED 20 TRUCKS AND DAMAGED 7 OTHERS.

21. PHNOM PENH REMAINS QUIET WITH GOVERNMENT FORCES STILL ON ALERT STATUS. TAKHMAU, LOCATED AT THE SOUTHERN EDGE OF THE CAPITAL, WAS AGAIN BOMBED ON MARCH 20 AND A BATTALION SIZE POSITION IN PHNOM PENH'S NORTHWEST ENVIRONS WAS OVERRUN BY THE INSURGENTS. RECENT FANK INTELLIGENCE REVEALS ENEMY INTENTIONS TO RESUME ATTACKS BY FIRE AGAINST PHNOM PENH AND ITS PERIPHERAL

AREAS. SUCH ACTIONS FALL IN THE ENEMY'S CAPABILITY.

SWANK

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